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A cultural Resources Survey of the Hatchie River Channel Blockage in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi. A negative Finding Report.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Memphis, District

Jimmy McNeil
Staff Archeologist

April 1985

# Abstract

On 11 March, 1985, an intensive cultural resources survey on the Hatchie River channel blockage right-of-way was conducted by the Environmental Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Memphis District Staff Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil.

The project is located in Township 3S, range 5E, Section 3 center and NW-1/4; Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 33 8-1/2 and W-1/2, Section 32 NE-1/4 of the NE-1/4 of the Peoples, MS., and Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 29, SE-1/4 of the Chalybeata, MS-TN, 7.5 minutes quadrangle maps. The project is in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi.

The proposed work includes removing the blockage and the deposited materials and placing these on the east streambank. With the exception of the actual area all work and material deposition will occur on existing fill materials.

A pedestrian survey of the blockage area right-of-way failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1
Table of Contents		11
Introduction		1
Project Description		1
Environmental Setting		2
Previous Research		2
Results of the Records Search		3
Survey Methodology and Results		3
Recommendations	•	3
References Cited		4
Map 1	General Views of the Proje	ct Area
Enclosure 1	Letter from Chief Archeolo	gist

### INTRODUCTION

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Staff Archeologist on 11 March, 1985, within the proposed project right-of-way of the Hatchie River blockage area as directed by The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. This study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CPR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi, Township 3S, Range 5E, Section 3 Center and NW-1/4; Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 23 S-1/2 and W-1/2, Section 32 NE-1/4 of the NE-1/4 of the Peoples, MS. and Township 2S, Range 5E, Section 29 SE-1/4 of the Chalybrate, MS-TN., 7.5 minute quadrangle maps. A 1,000 feet (304.8 meters) blockage area must be removed, site deposits removed from the river and deposited on existing fill, and 4-6 acres (total) cleared of vegetation so the equipment can operate. With the exception of the actual 1,000 foot (304.8 meters) blockage area all equipment tracking, work, and material deposition will take place on existing fill materials. The attached map (Map 1) depicts the project location.

# ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This area is located within the Humid Continental Climate zone, which is noted for its hot summers and mild winters. Average annual precipitation is 49.7 inches (126 centimeters) of which approximately 10% is snowfall (Commonwealth 1981).

Present vegetation includes willow, berch, cottonwoods, bamboo, oak, and various grasses and bushes.

The river flows through narrow to wide floodplains that are at the base of low hills. Much of the area is very low and swampy.

Fauna of the region includes deer, raccoon, opossum, squirrel and various birds and reptiles.

# PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The Memphis District Archeological Library and files contain no reports or records of any previous research having been completed in this area. A letter (Enclosure 1) from the State Archeologist, also, makes no reference to previous work having been conducted within the project area.

# RESULTS OF THE RECORDS SEARCH

A search of the Mississippi Records File was conducted. The records check indicated no recorded cultural resources. The National Register of Historic Places was also consulted and no sites were listed within the project area.

# SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The survey conducted on 11 March, 1985, consisted of walking over (where possible) the right-of-way area. Most of the area was shallowly flooded, some areas were being cut by riverlits that were up to 0.5 meters deep. Visibility was exceedingly bad. Shovel cuts (approximately 30 X 30 X 30 cm) were randomly dug in the areas above water and in areas of very shallow flooding. The materials from the shovel cuts were trowel cut and looked (screening was impossible) as much as conditions allowed. No artifacts or human habitation indicators were found.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

As no cultural remains or indicators were found within the blockage project area and all equipment tracing will be conducted on existing fill materials, it is recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned.

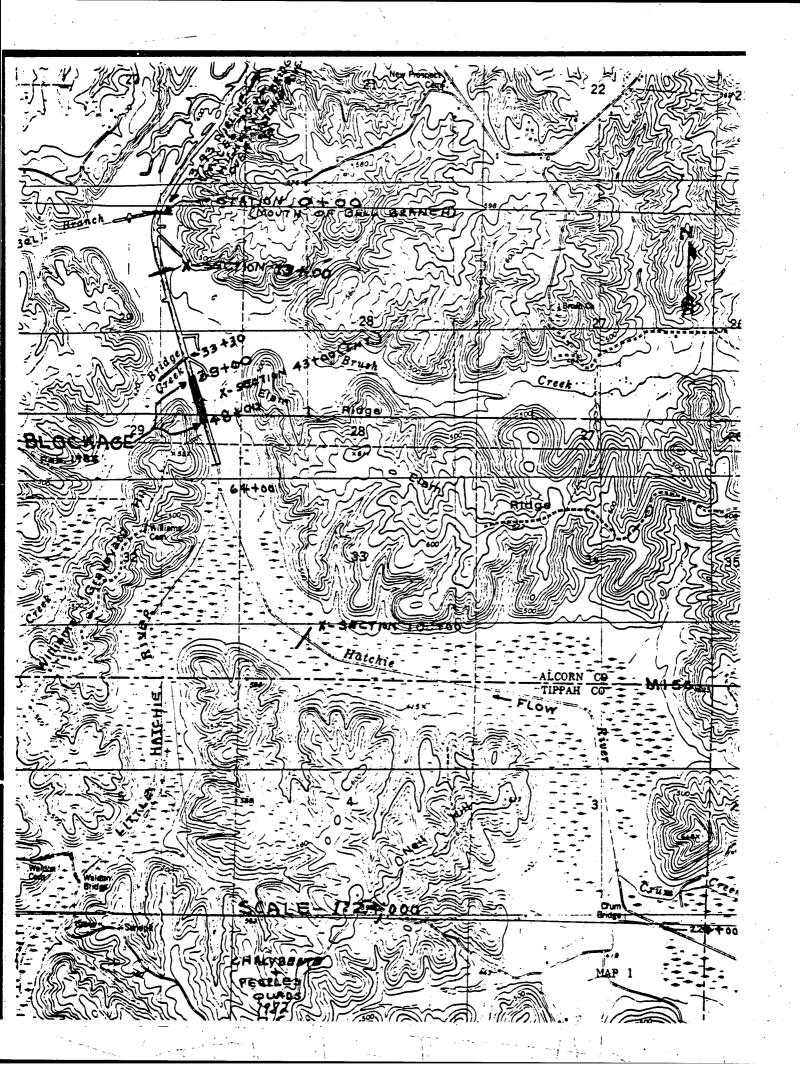
# REFERENCES CITED

Commonwealth Associates, Inc.

1981 Study of Archeological, Architectural and Historical Resources within the Memphis Metropolitan Area; Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi:

Horn Lake Creek Area. Prepared for the Memphis U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Memphis, Tennessee.

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March 28, 1985

Mr. Sam R. Morgan, P.E. Chief, Planning Division Department of the Army Memphis District, Corps of Engineers B-314 Clifford Davis Federal Building Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I write in response to your letter of March 20 regarding the blockage in the Batchie River in Alcorn and Tippah Counties, Mississippi. My records check indicates no recorded cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Samuel O. McGahey

Chief Archaeologist Division of Historic Preservation

SOM/gj